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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 10, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 5 totaled 19.1 billion ton-miles, up 9.1 percent from the 17.5 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987.

Cumulative volume for the first nine weeks of 1988 was an estimated 166.4 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.7 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended March 5 totaled 423,152, up 7.7 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 1.2 percent lower than the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 2.4 percent in the East and 13.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 14 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Coal loadings were up by 9,344 cars (3.6 percent), grain showed a gain of 6,041 cars (21.5 percent), and metals and products increased by 3,232 cars (39.3 percent). Eleven of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended February 27 totaled 107,000 trailers and/or containers, up 8.7 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first eight weeks of the year was 812,934 trailers and/or containers, up 6.3 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/05/88:

	Loadings in Week ended March 5, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	34,181	I	6,041	21.5	D	217	0.6
Other farm products	3,358	D	27	0.8	I	135	4.2
Metallic ores	12,891	D	1,003	7.2	D	1,532	10.6
Coal	117,731	I	9,344	8.6	D	3,696	3.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,703	I	1,216	9.7	I	914	7.1
Nonmetallic minerals	9,954	I	1,337	15.5	D	415	4.0
Grain mill products	10,539	D	591	5.3	D	431	3.9
Food and kindred products	11,490	I	324	2.9	D	264	2.2
Primary forest products	10,928	I	362	3.4	I	162	1.5
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,092	I	93	1.2	D	606	7.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,673	D	81	0.6	I	466	3.8
Chemicals and allied products	28,916	I	1,904	7.0	I	598	2.1
Petroleum products	4,804	I	72	1.5	D	208	4.2
Stone, clay and glass products	10,732	I	632	6.3	I	238	2.3
Coke	5,700	I	1,201	26.7	D	20	0.3
Metals and products	11,457	I	3,232	39.3	D	667	5.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,849	D	1,691	7.9	D	280	1.4
Waste and scrap materials	10,291	I	1,566	17.9	I	239	2.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,712	D	189	6.5	I	114	4.4
All other carloads	83,151	I	6,331	8.2	I	516	0.6
Total Cars Loaded	423,152	I	30,073	7.7	D	4,954	1.2
Corresponding week of 1987	393,079						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (9 weeks)	3,688,075	3,476,091	I 6.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
8 weeks ended February 27	147.4	138.6	I 6.4
Week ended March 5	19.1	17.5	I 9.1
9 Weeks cumulative	166.4	156.0	I 6.7

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